

### **In the Claims**

Claim 3 (Amended). The diet in accordance with claim 2 wherein the canine is at least seven years of age.

Claim 5 (Amended). The diet in accordance with claim 4 wherein the feline is at least seven years of age.

Claim 7 (Amended). The diet in accordance with claim 6 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid [or] and mixtures thereof is present in the diet.

Claim 12 (Amended). A method for inhibiting the deterioration of the mental capacity of an aged companion pet which comprises feeding the pet [a level of] an effective amount of antioxidant or mixture thereof to accomplish this inhibition.

Claim 17 (Amended). The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein Vitamin E is present and fed to the pet in at least about 100 ppm as measured by a [the] diet fed to the pet.

Claim 18 (Amended). The method in accordance with claim 17 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, alpha-lipoic acid, l-carnitine [or] and mixture thereof is fed to the pet.

Claim 19 (Amended). The method of claim 12 wherein effective amounts of an antioxidant of Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid or mixtures thereof are fed to the pet.

Claim 20 (Amended). The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C is fed to the pet.

Claim 21 (Amended). The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid is fed to the pet.

Claim 22 (Amended). The method of claim 19 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine is fed to the pet.

Claim 23 (Amended). A companion pet diet meeting ordinary nutritional requirements of an aged pet and further comprising at least about 100 ppm of Vitamin E, at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C, at least about 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid and at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine in the diet.

Claim 24 (Amended). The diet in accordance with claim 23 wherein the aged is a canine of at least 7 years of age.

Claim 25 (Amended). The diet in accordance with claim 23 wherein the aged pet is a feline of at least seven years of age.

Claim 28 (Amended). The method in accordance with claim 27 wherein the canine is at least seven years of age.

Claim 30 (Amended). The method in accordance with claim 29 wherein the feline is at least seven years of age.

Claim 31 (Amended). The method in accordance with claim 26 wherein the antioxidant Vitamin E is fed to the pet in at least about 100 ppm as measured by the diet.

Claim 32 (Amended). The method in accordance with claim 31 wherein an antioxidant selected from the group consisting of Vitamin C, alpha-lipoic acid, l-carnitine [or mixture] and mixtures thereof is fed to the pet.

Claim 33 (Amended). The method of claim 26 wherein effective amounts of antioxidant Vitamin C, l-carnitine, alpha-lipoic acid [or mixture] and mixtures thereof are fed to the pet.

Claim 34 (Amended). The method of claim 33 wherein at least about 50 ppm of Vitamin C is fed to the pet.

Claim 35 (Amended). The method of claim 33 wherein at least 25 ppm of alpha-lipoic acid is fed to the pet.

Claim 36 (Amended). The method of claim 33 wherein at least about 50 ppm of l-carnitine is fed to the pet.

Claim 37 (Amended). A companion pet diet meeting the pet's nutritional requirements and having [enough] effective amount(s) of antioxidant or [mixture] mixtures thereof to increase the mental capacity of an aged pet.